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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVISED BY R. B. Maura DATE 26/5/68

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FROM: BERLIN
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 182, AUGUST 13, 2 PM

NIACT

ACTION DEPARTMENT 182, NIACT LONDON 98, MOSCOW PRIORITY 95, PARIS PRIORITY 104, POLAD USAREUR PRIORITY 93.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY USRO, STOESSEL AND FINN

EAST GERMAN REGIME TOOK EXTENSIVE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS MORNING AUGUST 13 WHEN IMPLEMENTING DECISION PREVENT TRAVEL EAST GERMANS WEST BERLIN. MISSION OFFICER WHO WAS IN EAST BERLIN BETWEEN 4:00 AND 8:30 AM OBSERVED FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. BETWEEN 4:00 AND 5:00 AM, VOPOS AT SECTOR CROSSING POINTS WERE HEAVILY REINFORCED; BARBED WIRE AND OTHER BARRIERS WERE LAID.
2. BETWEEN 5:00 AND 6:00 AM, SECURITY CONTROL ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT EAST BERLIN WAS RAPIDLY ACCELERATED. SECURITY UNITS APPEARING ON STREETS AT THIS TIME INCLUDED CUSTOMS POLICE PERFORMING NORMAL POLICE DUTY, VOPOS, BEREITSCHAFT POLIZEI, KAMPFGRUPPEN UNITS AND EAST GERMAN ARMY UNITS. KAMPFGRUPPEN UNITS ENTERED ALMOST ALL BUILDINGS ON STREETS ADJACENT TO EAST/WEST BERLIN SECTOR LINES AND INSPECTED STAIRWELLS, UPPER FLOORS, AND ROOFS. VOPOS TOOK UP ASSIGNED BEATS ON STREETS, ASSISTED BY CUSTOMS POLICE. SECURITY ALERT POLICE OPENED SCHOOLS, OTHER PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND FACTORIES TO HOUSE LARGE NUMBERS POLICE ARRIVING IN MOTORIZED COLUMNS. MAJOR UNIT CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 80 TRUCKLOADS POLICE, ACCOMPANIED BY ARMORED CARS, MACHINE GUN CARRIERS AND OTHER VEHICLES, ARRIVED AT LARGE

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NAME OF OFFICER	TAREN	
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-2- 182, AUGUST 13, 2 PM FROM BERLIN

INDUSTRIAL SITE NEAR RUMMELSBURG S-BAHN STATION.

APPROXIMATELY 5:30 AM MISSION OFFICER SAW SMALL EAST GERMAN ARMY LIGHT TANK UNIT AT SCHOENHAUSER ALLEE AND SIMITROFF ALLEE. THIS LIGHT TANK UNIT AND AT LEAST OR OTHER SUBSEQUENTLY SIGHTED ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE TAKEN UP STATIONS IN SAME FACTORY AREA WHERE 80 TRUCKLOADS POLICE DELIVERED.

3. BETWEEN 6:00 AND 7:00 AM, RED CROSS, CIVIL DEFENSE, AND OTHER UNIFORMED UNITS BEGAN TO ACCOMPANY VOPOS ON REGULAR BEATS.

4. BETWEEN 7:00 AND 8:00 AM EAST BERLIN POPULACE BEGAN TO APPEAR IN LARGE NUMBERS ON STREETS. MISSION OFFICER FIRST NOTICED SOVIET ACTIVITY AT THIS TIME, WITH MANY SOVIET MILITARY-LICENSED CARS MAKING OBSERVATION TOURS OF EAST BERLIN.

MOST NOTEWORTHY FEATURE FOREGOING IS THAT ALMOST ALL SECURITY CONTROL MEASURES WERE COMPLETED BEFORE MOST EAST BERLINERS WERE AWAKE FROM SUNDAY SLEEP. ALTHOUGH CROWDS BEGAN TO GATHER AT APPROXIMATELY 8:30 AM ON STREETS LEADING TO CROSSING POINTS, MOST PEOPLE KEPT AT CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE FROM POLICE AND APPEARED TO BE RESIGNED TO PASSIVE OBSERVATION OF EVENTS TAKING PLACE.

LIGHTNER

MLJ

Note: Advance co ies to EUR and SS 8/13/12:05 p.m. CWO M

Passed White House 8/13

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